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FORECAST 
Focus on Results: Enhancing Capacity
Across Sectors in Transition

**WORLD LEARNING
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT:
April-May 9, 2011**

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Strategic Objective 4.1 (Cross-Cutting)

ISSUANCE DATE: 5/25/11

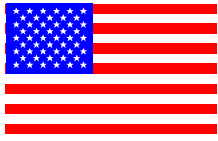
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DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



I. Washington, D.C.

A. Travel

- Site Visits were made by World Learning/Washington staff to monitor FORECAST/Exchange students on their university campuses:
 - April 4-6, Program Associate Olga Kolodina visited students at Indiana University of Pennsylvania
 - April 5-6, Senior Program Officer Melissa Oppenheimer visited students at University of Mississippi
 - April 13-14, Program Officer Amy Fisher visited students at the University of New Hampshire
 - April 21-22, Program Officer Jessica Mead visited students at Tennessee Technological University

B. Meetings, Conferences, and Presentations

- May 5, Senior Program Officer Melissa Oppenheimer presented at a workshop sponsored by Linden Educational Tours in Washington, DC that was attended by prospective host universities

C. Solution Provider Outreach

- The Resource Center coordinated visits to the FORECAST office from four training providers. The meetings focused on institutions' academic majors and programs including English language training, international student services, international communities on and off-campus, experience America activities, issues with international students, training capabilities, proposal writing guidance, and issues of training program management. Visits were made by the following institutions: International House of Metrolina, International Affairs Council, University of Arkansas, and Austin College.

Field Offices

II. FORECAST/Albania

For information regarding the most recent training/HICD activities for participants from Albania please refer to the status chart in the Appendix.

Staffing

- Intern Entiol Xhepa continued working on file closeout by scanning FORECAST and PTP documents.

Media Coverage

- News of the 2010 Trade Report Launch in Tirana April 14 was widely broadcast on all major media including Top News, Ora News, TVSH, Alsat, ATSH, TV Scan and Monitor. It was also covered by the major newspapers including *Gazeta Shqiptare*, *Panorama*, *Standart*, *Gazeta Shqip*, *Korrieri*, *Koha jone*, and *Shekulli*. USAID/Albania Mission Director Joseph Williams provided comments on the topic.

In-Country Training and Technical Assistance

- The following projects completed implementation during the period:
 - A Women's Leadership Project in Mirdita
 - Technical Assistance to develop valid assessment tools for depression in Albania
 - Technical Assistance to study the prevalence of viral infections in children with hemoglobinopathies
 - Technical Assistance to develop an on-line database for 13,000 licensed nurses for the Order of Nurses
 - Training for the School of Magistrates in how to implement a Clinical Program for students to assist in research for the Constitutional and Supreme Courts involving two trainers from the Netherlands
 - Technical Assistance to conduct an almond study in March 2011 with the final study due early April

- Preparations began for the Albanian Center for International Trade (ACIT) to produce its 2010 Trade Report and present it in a conference in April.
- A major procurement for the Telemedicine Program in Albania was approved and procurement completed for seven different procurements.
 - Polycom equipment arrived from Croatia, was taken out of customs tax free and completed implementation.
 - Medvizer equipment arrived from the US, was taken out of customs tax free and completed implementation.
 - Procurements for renovation, Information Technology, audio equipment, furniture and e-library platform software completed implementation.

Noteworthy Events

- Plans are underway to inaugurate space for the newly renovated and equipped Telemedicine Program in Albania with the US Ambassador and Minister of Health. More than \$350,000 worth of equipment and renovation was provided by USAID through the FORECAST project. Undoubtedly the inauguration will be well covered by media.

Cost-Saving Measures

- \$2,320 was saved by the WL administrative officer negotiating more favorable exchange rates for bank transfers.

Total Cost Savings.....\$2,320

III. FORECAST/Kosovo

For information regarding the most recent training/HICD activities for participants from Kosovo please refer to the status chart in the Appendix.

Staffing

- At the end of the FORECAST Task Order, the WL Kosovo office staff bid a fond farewell to three colleagues, Dijana Berisha, Hyrije Gashi and Ardita Jetullahu. A staff wrap-up lunch was held at a local restaurant on May 5.

Third Country Training

- Training in Serbian Language Radio was held April 3-7 in Croatia to support seven participants (station owners, managers or news editors) from the KOSMA radio network in a 3 day program organized by Radio.Net. The main goal of the study visit was to see how comparable radio stations in Croatia grapple with similar challenges and provide owners and managers guidelines on how to run their stations more effectively. In particular, the Serb radio stations in Eastern Slavonia, Croatia demonstrated to their Kosovo Serb colleagues how they have integrated into Croatian political structures, however reluctantly.
- Seven representatives from pilot court-referred mediation centers spent five days at the Croatian Mediation Association in Zagreb, April 10-15, to learn and study techniques in how to use best practices to establish, operate, and promote pilot independent mediation centers. This information will be applied at two start-up locations in Gjilan and Peja. The Independent Mediation Centers training program focused on general operations and functions of an independent mediation center.
- Sixteen participants including members of the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA) and University of Pristina Law Faculty staff attended a three-day Training of Trainers program, April 10-15 in Macedonia. The goal of the study trip was to help the KCA become self-sufficient in developing and providing ToT methodology since continuing education is a requirement effective this year. This initiative can help promote a more interactive teaching method, and by developing their own ToT training skills, the KCA will become more sustainable.
- For a Healthy Mind (FHM) is a Prizren-based NGO with the aim to help children and adolescents via psycho-therapeutic and psychological services. FHM's main areas of work are mental health, children's rights and child-centered research which they accomplish through advocacy with various ministries, parliamentary committees, and NGO representatives. The organization will work with citizens and send feedback to the National Council for inclusion in draft legislation. While in Croatia April 3-7, representatives met with peer NGO organizations and mental health agencies and gained valuable experience with NGOs and institutions who have worked in similar projects.

In-Country Training

- The final cohorts of English Teacher Training finished training in April. On April 16 an award ceremony was held at a local Pristina hotel where 68 participants from 4 different municipalities (Prishtina, Prizren, Gjakova and Gracanica) were awarded a certificate, a mini-language teaching library and a CD player for language instruction. SIT's Jo Kennedy

served as emcee for this event. Attendees at the award ceremony were representatives from USAID, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), the British Council, and municipal education directors. A noteworthy milestone was achieved when the MEST representative announced that this training course has been accredited as a certified continuing education course. Thus our attendees received 5 years of continuing ed accreditation as a result of their 100 hours of training and classroom observation. In order to provide project sustainability beyond FORECAST, ETT training staff identified 20 lead trainers from the 68 participating teachers. These teachers received additional training during the weekends of April 16-17 and 23-24.

On April 23, participants from English Teacher Training presented in the first Kosovo English Language Conference held in Prishtina. Some of the teachers were able to apply what they learned by leading breakout training sessions.

Technical Assistance Activities

- WL/Kosovo continued to provide Technical Assistance to Kosovo North Local Initiatives.

The NGO SABOR started to sew needed costumes for the local folk dancing troupe 'KUD' of Zvecan. The objective was to provide the group with male and female traditional folklore costume apparel in order to support their various engagements in regional cultural events. Ten percent of the revenue to SABOR went to cover the cost of a local soup kitchen.

A focus group meeting was held in northern Kosovo with 16 NGOs participating. Lisa Magno of USAID and Will Clowney of WL/Kosovo attended the focus group and spoke briefly to those assembled. World Learning hired two independent consultant contractors to conduct the research and write a comprehensive program evaluation report. This final report is due in mid-May.

WL signed a Financial Certification with Santa Marija which will enable this implementing partner to purchase a pregnancy ultrasound. The equipment will allow 20-30 women each week to have routine pregnancy check-ups done locally in lieu of traveling to either Novi Pazar or Belgrade in Serbia. The cost for this ultrasound service at the only local (private) clinic is approximately 50 Euro (or 80 euro in Belgrade). It is projected that 20-30 women would utilize this service per week. WL provided the ultrasound probe which will encourage mothers to have this diagnostic procedure done on a more timely basis that will permit doctors to address any issues early on in the pregnancy.

WL signed a Financial Certification with the NGO Legal Clinic Mitrovica. USAID and World Learning attended the meeting of the Albanian and Serb law students in April.

Volleyball training took place for 40 girls in grades 5-12. This culminated in a one day tournament in the northern Kosovo village of Srbovac. Six USAID staffers participated during the opening exhibition match. The tournament was organized by the NGO D&G Solutions. The aim of this program was to support greater girls' participation in athletic activities and to promote a more healthy life-style and better self-image and confidence.

WL signed a Financial Certification with WorkNet which will enable this employment agency to purchase office equipment as the office furnishings and equipment are very important to project professionalism to both potential hires and employers who meet on the WorkNet premises.

WL signed a Financial Certification with local computer equipment vendor BOTEK to provide laptops, projectors and printers to some of our identified local implementing partners, which will be much-needed office equipment to assist them in their civil society building work. The NGO reps were highly appreciative of this additional support.

- World Learning continued to provide Technical Assistance to the Mobile Computer Lab in School project. A Financial Certification was signed with local computer equipment vendor Ilir Kosova to provide a laptop to each of the twenty school administrators from the previous WL/FORECAST Mobile Computer Lab in School project. WL/FORECAST staff had previously noted that many of the school administrators had requested having this equipment to help in their school administration duties.

Noteworthy Events

- April 22, Lisa Magno of USAID/Kosovo hosted a thank you lunch at her residence for WL/Kosovo staff and USAID staff to mark the end of FORECAST.
- May 6, World Learning staff met with AED representatives about how to utilize English Teacher participants trained under FORECAST in their BEP project after FORECAST ends.

Cost Saving Measures

- \$11,072 was saved by applying VAT reimbursements.

Total Cost Savings.....\$11,072

IV. FORECAST/Serbia and Montenegro

For information regarding the most recent training/HICD activities for participants from Serbia and Montenegro please refer to the status chart in the Appendix.

Staffing

- Program Coordinator Nadja Mirkovic will be on maternity leave through fall 2012.

FORECAST Exchange

- All Serbian and Montenegrin students have been informed about their US university placements for fall; four opted out of the program and accepted other scholarship opportunities. All others accepted their placements and are in process of selecting courses and completing their housing applications. Both embassies have been informed about the placements. All students have taken their medical exams; 32 Serbian and 10 Montenegrin students passed their exams; three may require medical waivers due to cases of cerebral palsy, asthma and prolapsus valvulae mitralis. Waivers will be provided by their US universities. Information for granting J-1 visas has been gathered from all students. RSO checks and visa interviews will be scheduled accordingly.
- Two alumni from the 2010-2011 academic year have returned to Serbia and Montenegro so far; their status was updated in TraiNet. USAID is to provide WL/Serbia with guidance regarding who will process returnees in the future should World Learning not have TraiNet access. World Learning/Serbia proposed to USAID that it would be best to retain our access to the system through July 31, 2011.
- All Serbian and Montenegrin universities have been informed via e-mail regarding returning student alumni and are ready to support the students throughout the course accreditation process.

Noteworthy Events

- April 11, 13, and 15, the local NGO MAYYA (Montenegro American Youth Alumni Association) participated at the *Open Days Fair*, the largest higher education fair in Montenegro, annually organized and attended by 10,000-13,000 high school graduates and students. The Fair was held in three cities on three separate dates: Podgorica, Bar, and Bijelo Polje. One of the fair segments is to provide students with information and opportunities regarding possible academic scholarships. Since most MAYYA members are FORECAST

Exchange alumni, World Learning provided the NGO with €175 and FORECAST Exchange presentation materials. The US Embassy in Podgorica also sponsored the event.

Cost Savings

- \$247 was saved by applying VAT reimbursements.
- \$950 was saved in housing costs by the Country Director renting an apartment on a short-term basis.

Total Cost Savings.....\$1,197

V. APPENDIX

A. Intervention Status Report – April-May 9, 2011

APPENDIX A: INTERVENTION STATUS - NEW STARTS - APRIL-MAY 9, 2011

	UST	TCT	ICT	TA	Small Grants	EMT	Academic	Partnerships	HICD Activities	TOTALS
Number of Interventions										
Albania - period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cumulative	33	33	21	45	73	0	0	0	0	205
Bosnia-Herzegovina - period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cumulative	6	26	5	1	3	0	0	0	2	43
Croatia - period	0	0	0	0	0					0
cumulative	4	6	3	10	0					23
Kosovo - period	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
cumulative	5	47	19	36	0	0	59	0	17	183
Montenegro - period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cumulative	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	40
Serbia - period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cumulative	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	0	0	115
Regional - period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
cumulative	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTALS - period	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
cumulative	48	113	48	93	76	0	214	0	19	611
Number of Participants (if applicable)										
Albania - period	0	0	0	0	0					0
cumulative	153	245	1851	2319	1441					6009
Bosnia-Herzegovina - period	0	0	0	n/a	n/a				n/a	0
cumulative	29	264	1918	n/a	n/a				n/a	2211
Croatia - period	0	0	0	n/a	n/a					0
cumulative	9	40	110	n/a	n/a					159
Kosovo - period	0	34	108	n/a			0		n/a	142
cumulative	44	413	205	n/a			106		n/a	768
Montenegro - period	0	0	0	0			0			0
cumulative	0	0	0	0			40			40
Serbia - period	0	0	0	0			0			0
cumulative	0	0	0	0			115			115
Regional - period	0	0	0	0						0
cumulative	0	58	0	0						58
TOTALS - period	0	34	108	0	0		0			142
cumulative	235	1020	4084	2319	1441		261			9360

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